

FIRST READING. Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

SECOND READING. 1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL. Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’



Sunday, February 18, 2024


“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

**St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.

Offering Prayer (read in unison) From Sundays & Seasons, © 2023 Augsburg Fortress

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Psalm 50:1-6 – Tune 597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (Melita)

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. | I trust you, God, to make me whole.

Leader: Let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Show me, O Lord, the way to go; | Teach me your righteous paths to know.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I always trust in you.

In steadfast love remember me. | Your paths of goodness let me see.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions. According to your steadfast love remember me for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. | I trust you, God, to make me whole.

Because the Lord is righteous and good, he teaches sinners the path they should follow. He leads the humble in the right way and teaches them his will.

Show me, O Lord, the way to go; | Teach me your righteous paths to know.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

In steadfast love remember me. | Your paths of goodness let me see.

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

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|--------|--|
| TODAY  | Annual Meeting after the service, <u>soup lunch is provided</u>  |
| Feb 21 | 6:30 p.m. – ZOOM Midweek Lent Gathering; Feb 28, Mar 6, 13, 20<br>Email Pastor Bart for a ZOOM invitation: bartsterc@gmail.com |
| Feb 22 | 1:00 p.m. – Pastor Bart is leading a Prayer Workshop where folk can sample and try various methods of meditative prayer.       |
| Mar 1  | 1:00 p.m. – World Day of Prayer service hosted by First Lutheran in Port Colborne. Everyone is invited to attend.              |

Lenten Daily Devotional – A Recommendation from Pastor Bart

You might appreciate a devotional resource that draws on scripture, prayer, art and music AND has connections to Canada. For several years, I’ve enjoyed and been refreshed and inspired by Lutherans Connect. Curated here in Ontario, the devotions are offered during Lent and Advent and other special times of the year.

Consider making Lutherans Connect part of your daily routine during Lent. Simply email and ask them to send you the daily emails! Lutherans.connect@gmail.com

**Do you LOVE to sing? Do you miss having a choir?**  
**Are you coming to church at Easter?**

If you answered "YES" to the above questions, please join Lily with a small group of singers who will be preparing an easy musical number for Easter. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays, immediately after the service, for about 40 minutes.

All voices and abilities welcome! Please contact Lily and say you'll be there

Looking forward to singing praises together!

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness .....printed  
Kyrie, from Service of the Word .....  
Page 213  
Prayer of the Day  
Hymn ..... 637 Holy God, Holy  
Glorious

WORD

First Reading ..... Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 50:1-6.....printed in bulletin  
Second Reading .....1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel Acclamation, Setting 1  
“Let your steadfast love...” .....Page 103  
“Glory to you, O Lord.”  
Gospel .....Mark 1:9-15  
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day .....325 I Want Jesus  
to Walk with Me

Prayers of Intercession  
Prayer Response .....“Your mercy is great.”  
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer .....printed  
Great Thanksgiving (spoken) .....Page 107  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Lord’s Prayer, sung .....Page 305  
Communion  
“Lamb of God”, Setting 1 .....Page 112  
Communion Hymns .....766, 326  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song .... 446 I’m Going on a Journey

Dismissal: Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Response: Thanks be to God.**